

REMARKS

Further to telephonic discussions with the Examiner, for which Applicants wish to express their gratitude, Applicants have made technical amendments to claims 82 and 97, and have further modified the enumerated claims 113, 115, 122, 124 and 125 in order to incorporate and "mirror" the relevant analogous limitations of claim 65 (previously indicated as allowable) in view of the reciprocal watermarking and extraction process. The enumerated claims now bear limitations analogous to those of claim 65: that is, the claims have been amended to cover the embodiment of the invention in which the additional steps are performed of: operating on the embedded watermark data by preparing said data for an orthogonal transform, performing an orthogonal transform on said data, and finally, generating the watermark coefficients for subsequent use in validating or authenticating original unlabeled data.

Although Examiner indicated telephonically that the suggested change was to incorporate into the subject claims steps analogous to steps (f) - (h) of claim 65, Applicants respectfully submit that this was not actually what Examiner is believed to require. Applicants respectfully bring to Examiner's attention the fact that steps (f) - (h) of claim 65 were steps already reflected in steps (a) - (c) of the enumerated claims. As claim 65 purports to watermark unlabeled data, it proceeds by 1) preparing the unlabeled data, 2) watermarking said data, and 3) outputting the labeled (watermarked) data. On the other hand, the enumerated claims operate by *extracting* the watermark from labeled data, and thus these claims begin where claim 65 ends. That is to say, the enumerated claims begin by handling labeled (watermarked) data - data from which the watermark coefficients are extracted and prepared for potential use in the validation, authentication, or preparation for output of the original, unlabeled data.

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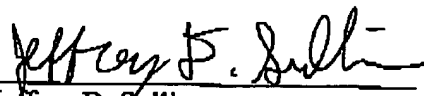
Accordingly, the enumerated claims have been amended to reflect these additional limitations as per the Examiner's instructions. Accordingly, the claims amended herein are believed to substantially "mirror" and incorporate the relevant limitations of allowable claim 65, albeit this was accomplished in slightly different fashion than that discussed telephonically.

Finally, as requested by the Examiner, Applicants have reviewed the pending claims and do not believe that the amendments proposed herein would lead to any literal duplication of claim coverage amongst respective claims.

Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are currently in state for allowance, and would ask that Examiner enter an Examiner's Amendment reflecting the above modifications and allow the modified claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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